



DRAFT



GCSE

FRENCH

Our new inspirational specification has the option for you and your students to choose the topics they speak and write about. Speaking tasks can be completed outside the classroom for added real-life relevance. In addition, the new option of a short course for French, where your students can study just the speaking or writing part of the course, has been introduced.

What's happening to GCSEs?

OCR is offering new GCSEs for first teaching in September 2009*.

We've taken this opportunity to improve the quality of our GCSEs for teachers and learners alike.

We've made improvements in three key areas: updated and relevant content, a focus on developing students' personal, learning and thinking skills, and flexible assessment, so teachers can choose the best learning approach for the job.

We want to make the introduction of these new GCSEs as easy for you to manage as possible.

The main changes are:

- Controlled assessment will be introduced for most subjects
- The opportunity will be taken to bring course content up to date
- Examinations should provide opportunity for extended writing and more varied question types
- All GCSEs will meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act.

Our approach is to provide consistency across all our GCSEs by offering the flexibility that unitised qualifications bring, allowing teaching and assessment in either a linear or unitised fashion.

*Not all GCSEs are changing. There are a few exceptions: the new Science GCSE was introduced in 2006. New English, English Literature, ICT and Maths GCSEs will be offered for first teaching in 2010.



Improving GCSE French with OCR

We've involved teachers throughout the development process, so the new specifications, support materials and schemes of work should be exactly what you need to teach OCR GCSE French. To ensure accuracy in our content, we've also consulted subject associations, professional membership groups, subject societies and other subject experts.



Our GCSE French offers:

- Short course route
- Reduced administration through electronic submission of controlled assessment
- An option for up to 60% of student assessment to be completed before the end of the two-year course.

Making change easy

We'd like to make these changes as easy for you to manage as possible. To minimise disruption, we will:

- Guide you through the process of moving to OCR
- Bring you the latest information through our Focus on 14–19 magazine and our new website www.GCSEchanges.com
- Show you approved specifications one year ahead of first teaching, so you have plenty of preparation time
- Offer you a range of OCR support materials, including schemes of work and sample assessment materials, as we did with GCEs
- Make OCR's publisher partner resources – tailored to the new specifications – available from January 2009
- Endorse a variety of published resources, giving you a wider choice of quality support materials.

We're also running extra INSET and training courses across the UK, so now it's even easier to discover how OCR has developed its specifications.

Controlled assessment

While reviewing GCSEs, QCA looked into the coursework element of the current qualifications and decided to introduce controlled assessment as an alternative to coursework. This will address some of the issues raised in recent coursework reviews, such as plagiarism.

Controlled assessment has to be done in a supervised environment. However, if the task has a research element, the student may complete this without supervision.



The benefits of controlled assessment include:

- More straightforward marking – for most subjects, we provide worksheets for students to complete
- Improved reliability and validity
- Varying levels of control, to help you manage the assessments and your time more easily
- Greater confidence in authenticating students' work as their own
- Greater ease in fitting assessments into your normal teaching programmes.

For GCSE French, controlled assessment means:

Speaking

- Task setting – Teachers and candidates have three options:
 - Choose an OCR-set task
 - Adapt an OCR-set task
 - Set their own task.
- Task taking – Not all tasks need to be recorded and not all tasks have to take place in the classroom (could be on an exchange visit). Candidates can do as many tasks as they like and can choose the best two tasks for submission.
- Task marking – Teachers mark all tasks and they are moderated by OCR.

Writing

- Task setting – Teachers and candidates have three options:
 - Choose an OCR-set task
 - Adapt an OCR-set task
 - Set their own task.
- Task taking – Tasks can be written up in the classroom with templated/restricted notes. Candidates can write as many tasks as they like and can choose the best two tasks for submission.
- Task marking – All tasks are marked by OCR.

We will review our controlled assessment tasks every two years.

Flexible assessment

The assessment for the new OCR GCSEs is organised into units which can either all be taken at the end of the course in a linear fashion, or be used to complement a more unitised approach to teaching and learning. This gives you the flexibility to choose the assessment approach best suited to your centre and your students. A unitised structure gives you the flexibility to co-teach short and full courses.

We already offer assessments that are organised into units at A Level and for some existing GCSEs. For many subjects, assessments will be available twice a year. Flexible assessment means:

- You will have a choice of learning approaches – linear or unitised
- The assessment can be timed to match the point of learning within the course, making it easier for candidates to show what they know, understand and can do
- Students can re-sit a unit rather than repeat the entire assessment
- Some students are motivated by ongoing feedback and this helps them identify their learning needs
- A unitised approach makes it easier for students to stay on track with their studies and manage their time effectively
- The pressure of an 'all or nothing' assessment is removed
- Examination stress is reduced by permitting assessment over a longer period so that not all assessments are concentrated in a narrow window at the end of two years

- With a similar format to A Levels and Diplomas, GCSEs will help prepare students for the next phase of their education.

To ensure that the assessment supports the coherence of the GCSEs and there is no over-assessment, QCA has put two rules in place: 40% of the assessment must happen at the end of the course and only one re-sit of each assessment unit is allowed.

You may know 'unitised' as modular.

Unit title and description	Assessment including duration	Weighting
Unit A701: Listening Candidates will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen for, identify and note main points and extract some details from spoken French of increasing length, speed and complexity • Demonstrate their understanding of French with a variety of non-verbal responses and some short answers in English. 	Written examination Foundation tier – 45 minutes Higher tier – 50 minutes	20% full course 40% spoken short course
Unit A702: Speaking Using French, candidates will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate in French in at least two topic areas either from a specified list or of their own choice • Interact with other French speakers, expressing and justifying opinions where appropriate. 	Controlled assessment	30% full course 60% spoken short course
Unit A703: Reading Candidates will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read, identify and note main points and extract some details from written texts in French of increasing length, speed and complexity • Demonstrate their understanding of French with a variety of non-verbal responses and some short answers in English. 	Written examination 50 minutes	20% full course 40% written short course
Unit A704: Writing Using French, candidates will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate in French in at least two topic areas either from a specified list or of their own choice • Express and justify points of view in French where appropriate. 	Controlled assessment	30% full course 60% written short course

Short courses

We also offer two short courses in GCSE French, one in the spoken language and one in the written language; both are equivalent to half a GCSE. This offers several advantages:

- There are only two units to complete.
- Students who are interested in a particular subject, but don't have time to study a full course, have more learning options.
- Students can study a wider range of subjects.

- Timetabling for shorter courses can be easier for your centre.
- More able students can complement their studies by taking additional short courses.
- Short courses can be spread over one or two years.



What changes, and what stays the same?

	What changes?	What stays the same?
Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The course is now four units rather than six• There is heavier weighting for speaking and writing• A short course is available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Listening and reading remain tiered• The four skills are still assessed separately.
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• List of topics has been updated to include more relevant materials for candidates• Teachers and candidates now have the option to choose their own topics for speaking and writing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Most topics cover areas that are essential to language learning contexts.
Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Speaking no longer needs to be taken as a terminal examination• Not all speaking tasks have to be recorded• Speaking and written work can be submitted electronically via OCR Repository• Short course allows candidates to be assessed on just their best skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The four assessment objectives remain the same.

Assessment objectives

The assessment objectives are designed to reflect the non-statutory guidelines for French.

Candidates are expected to demonstrate the following in the context of the content described:

AO1

- Understand spoken language.

AO2

- Communicate in speech.

AO3

- Understand written language.

AO4

- Communicate in writing.

Support for GCSE French teachers

OCR offers a range of support materials, developed following extensive research and consultation with teachers. We've designed them to save you time when preparing for the new specifications and to support you while teaching them.

Our support materials and events include face-to-face training courses, schemes of work that you can customise, endorsed publisher partner resources, access to teacher and examiner networks (both online and offline), plus an extensive past-papers service.

OCR's online resources include:

- E-communities – online networks of subject specialists for sharing knowledge, views and ideas
- Interchange – a completely free and secure website that helps you carry out the administrative tasks associated with examinations quickly and easily
- Past examination papers
- Marking schemes
- Subject e-alerts – for teachers who register for updates.

We offer a wide range of training courses in the UK, so you have easy access to information about our new specifications – direct from the experts. See over for more details.



Training for OCR GCSE French

Our Get Ready events offer a taste of the new specification. Dates are given below, and you can book your place now at www.GCSEchanges.com.

Later, we'll be running our Get Started events, which take you through the specification in more detail and help you work towards first teaching. They will take place during the spring and summer terms 2009.

Get Ready – introducing the new specification (first teaching from September 2009)*

This course is for all teachers – new and experienced – who are interested in finding out more about the new specification. It's open to you, even if you don't teach the current OCR specification.

It's a **FREE** half-day session, including refreshments, a light finger buffet and course materials, offering an overview of the new OCR specification in GCSE French. Key features include:

- A look at the new structure, content and assessment methods
- A comparison between old and new specification content
- An introduction to the support and resources available from OCR
- A summary of the benefits of choosing the new OCR specification.

Date	Location	Course code
Wed 9 Jul 08 AM	London	OFRA101
Wed 9 Jul 08 PM	London	OFRA102
Wed 10 Sept 08 AM	Nottingham	OFRA103
Wed 10 Sept 08 PM	Nottingham	OFRA104
Fri 26 Sept 08 AM	London	OFRA105
Fri 26 Sept 08 PM	London	OFRA106
Fri 10 Oct 08 AM	Birmingham	OFRA107
Fri 10 Oct 08 PM	Birmingham	OFRA108
Fri 14 Nov 08 AM	Leeds	OFRA109
Fri 14 Nov 08 PM	Leeds	OFRA110
Wed 14 Jan 09 AM	London	OFRA111
Wed 14 Jan 09 PM	London	OFRA112

Please note:

- Free OCR Training courses will not incur any penalty fees however, so that we can offer your place to another delegate please notify us in good time of your course cancellation.
- Dates are subject to change so please ensure you read your booking confirmation and web updates as OCR Training cannot be held responsible for delegates who attend on an incorrect date.
- Courses throughout summer 2008 and autumn 2008 terms may be based on the draft specification.
- *The times of these courses may vary from the standard advertised time.

Publishing support for GCSE French teachers

We're working with publisher partner Oxford University Press to provide further resources to support the new specifications.



To find the latest information on published resources, please visit www.ocr.org.uk/french/newgcse and choose published resources from the right-hand menu.



www.ocr.org.uk

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